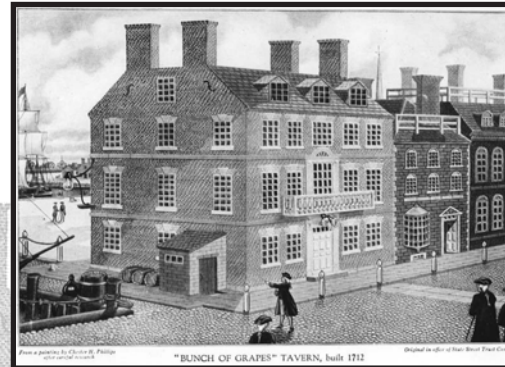


Bunch of Grapes Tavern

To reach the site of the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, built 1712, exit the center doors of Faneuil Hall. Turn right on Merchants Row. At its end is State Street. Look right to the southwest corner of Kilby and State Streets. You will see an older building with three historic plaques on it. On this spot Ohio was born.

On July 30, 1733, 18 men organized the first Masonic Lodge in North America in the Bunch of Grapes.

The Bunch of Grapes Tavern



*...the best
punch house
in Boston...*



The original, wooden bunch of grapes that hung outside the tavern.

In 1750, Captain Francis Goelet described the Bunch of Grapes as the “best punch house in Boston.”

For Ohioans **ONLY**



Boston National
Historical Park
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New England Origins

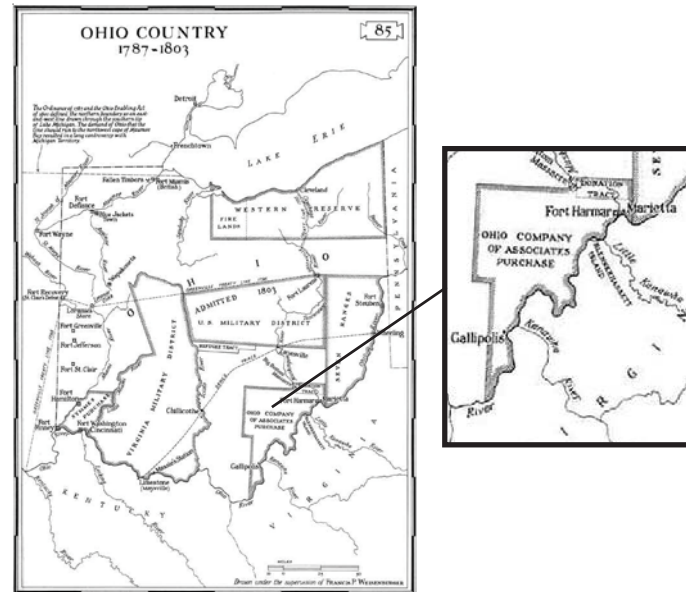
On January 25, 1786 a notice appeared in the Columbian Sentinel and other New England papers. It invited a council to discuss what to do about lands in Ohio. On March 1, 1786, Rufus Putnam of Connecticut, Reverend Manasseh Cutler, and nine others met in the Bunch of Grapes Tavern to form the Ohio Company of Associates.



Rufus Putnam, 1738 - 1824

Connecticut had ceded to the national government land in the west it had claimed under its colonial charter, on the condition that some of it be set aside as land to be settled by Connecticut veterans of the Revolutionary War. Thus Congress, under the Articles of Confederation, allowed the Ohio Company to buy 1,500,000 acres in Ohio at 8 ½ cents per share with, in part, military warrants. The Ohio Company was the first to settle the State of Ohio at Marietta, in 1787.

The Bunch of Grapes Tavern, at the corner of King (now State) and Kilby Streets was, just before the Revolution, the meeting place for those wealthy merchants sympathetic to the patriot cause.



Cutler later drew up the Northwest Ordinance, providing for the orderly settlement of the Midwest. It was adopted by Congress on July 13, 1787, just a few months before our present Constitution was created. Putnam had surveyed the area years before, facilitating the division of the territory into the six-mile squares familiar to Midwesterners today.

Both New Englanders put an indelible stamp on the Midwest, importing village greens and white churches, one room schoolhouses and local government. Ohio and the rest of the Old Northwest are dotted with place names originally found in New England.



Manasseh Cutler, 1742 - 1823

Investors in New England (especially Boston) lost no time buying land in the Ohio country. One of these was Peter Chardon Brooks (1767-1849), a wealthy insurance broker, who bought land near the shores of Lake Erie. He later donated a village plat if the future town was named for him. However he suppressed his last name and used his middle name instead. Thus was born Chardon, Ohio, seat of Geauga County, about 28 miles east of Cleveland. His example may stand for many such investments made in Ohio.